

My name is Matt Neal and type 1 diabetes has had a positive impact on my life. I have been healthy and active my entire life. I grew up racing BMX and I was fortunate enough to experience a great deal of success in the sport. I even raced professionally before I put racing on hold to finish my degree in Kinesiology. I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of 28. After the initial shock of my diagnosis, I knew that I needed to use diabetes as a tool to help educate and inspire others. As a result, I am racing BMX again. I want to prove to myself and to others that diabetes does not need to slow anyone down or prevent them from pursuing their dreams. Since my diagnosis I have raced two national events. I already won a main event at a major national event and I am eager to win some more. I am thankful for JDRF because they have given me a chance to mentor others who are newly diagnosed. Furthermore, I am in the process of going back to school to obtain my certified diabetes educator certification. I want to make a career out of helping other people living with type 1 diabetes. Being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes has given me a new purpose and I am excited to share my story with others and to have the opportunity to educate people about the disease I live with every day.